

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07

COME-00 XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 (ISO) W

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O P 300642Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 995 IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL OAS CAPITALS 021 PRIORITY

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USDEL 051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS, CU

SUBJECT: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE - 16TH MFM

1. HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS WERE QUICKLY CLEARED AWAY IN MORNING SESSIONS; IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THOSE OPPOSED COULD NOT ENGAGE IN DELAYING TACTICS, BUT INTENDED TO CATCH THE PLANE ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE. INAUGURAL SESSION CONSISTED OF BRIEF STATEMENT BY COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER. ODUBER POINTED OUT THAT COSTA RICA HAD STRONGLY SUPPORTED SANCTIONS IN 1964 BUT STRESSED FACT THAT TIME HAD COME FOR CHANGE FOR THE GOOD OF THE SYSTEM, AND REITERATED COSTA RICA'S CONTINUING ADHERENCE TO THE PREVISIONS OF THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION. BY THAT TIME A RESPECTABLE NUMBER OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE PRESENT (SEVEN), MEXICO, PERU, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND COSTA RICA.

2. GENERAL COMMITTEE DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION INCLUDING EXPLANATIONS ODLVOTE, WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF (2 1/2 HOURS). MEXICO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR FREEDOM OF ACTION FORMULA,
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AND URGED ITS PASSAGE. GUATEMALA PRODUCED ONLY MILD SURPRISE OF

SESSION. AMBASSADOR CASTILLO GAVE HIS BRIEF REMARKS, PERILS OF PAULINE TREATMENT, LEAVING EVERYONE IN DOUBT UNTIL FINAL LINE WHEN HE SAID GUATEMALA WOULD SUPPORT RESOLUTION. CHILE, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY AND NICARAGUA STRESSED THAT CUBAN INTERVENTION CONTINUED AND CRITICIZED PROCEDURES. BRAZIL DID NOT SPEAK AT ALL.

3. EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE. ALL MEMBERS WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN EARLIER,

EXCEPT BRAZIL, PANAMA AND COSTA RICA (WHOSE PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY EXPLAINED VOTE) SPOKE. THE NEWLY COMPLETED RIO TREATY PROTOCOL, INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY, PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION, NEED TO LET EACH COUNTRY DETERMINE ITS OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN INTEREST WERE FREQUENTLY CITED. EL SALVADOR ARGUED, AS THEY HAD IN QUITO, THAT SANCTIONS WERE NO LONGER JUST, THAT THEY CONFLICT WITH SOVEREIGNTY AND IMPEDED INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. COUNTRIES WHICH HAD ALREADY REESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH CUBA, SUCH AS ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA, TENDED TO STRESS SOVEREIGN NATURE OF THEIR ACTS AND TO CHARACTERIZE THE SANCTIONS AS OUTMODED. HOWEVER, WITH EXCEPTION OF MEXICO (SEE BELOW) NONE CALLED INTO QUESTION ORIGINAL VALIDITY OF 1964 OAS RESOLUTION.

4. RABASA (MEXICO) CHARACTERIZED THIS AS A DAY OF LIBERATION FOR THE AMERICAS AND NOT SURPRISINGLY REITERATED TRADITIONAL MEXICAN POSITION THAT THE SANCTIONS NEVER WERE LEGALLY PROPER. HE MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT MEXICO CONSIDERED 1962 CUBAN EXCLUSION RESOLUTION AN ERROR. HE NOTED WITH APPROVAL NEW RIO TREATY ARTICLE 11 ON NON-INTERVENTION AND IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM AND STRESSED RELEVANCE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. THE RIO TREATY, HE SAID, SHOULD NEVER AGAIN BE USED AS A MEANS OF REPRESSION ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS.

5. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MANAGED TO RAISE A FEW EYEBROWS BY CALLING FOR CUBAN REINTEGRATION INTO REGIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM (ESPECIALLY IN THE CARIBBEAN) BUT INDICATED CLEARLY THAT THE PRESENT RESOLUTION DID NOT PROVIDE FOR THIS. FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH THEN OBSERVED THAT RESOLUTION DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH: HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN THE 9TH MFM RESOLUTION REVOKED OUTRIGHT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE ALSO REFERRED TO INCLUSION OF BELIZE IN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH BROUGHT A PREDICTABLE (BUT LOW KEY) RESPONSE FROM GUATEMALA. URUGUAY, IN A BRIEF STATEMENT ENDORSED BY CHILE, STRESSED THAT THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION HAD NOT REQUESTED NOT LIFTED THE SANCTIONS BUT HAD LEFT THEIR CONTINUATION IN EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE TO EACH MEMBER COUNTRY. URUGUAY ALSO STATED THAT RESOLUTION HAD NO EFFECT ON CUBAN EXCLUSION FROM OAS, AN INTERPRETATION THAT WAS NOWHERE CONTRADICTED BUT ALSO WAS IGNORED.

6. BRIEF STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY USDEL SENT SEPTTEL.
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